

Hello my name is Luke Bushman, thank you for having me here this morning, I was just hired on as the new Youth Leader here, and I was asked to just share a little bit about myself, just like I did at Osler a few weeks ago, so you can get to know me and my faith story a little bit.

I had a pretty unremarkable childhood, in the best way possible, stable, Christian family, raised in Hepburn Saskatchewan. I grew up believing in God and their love for me, and with a really loving family I wasn't left doubting that.

I got to middle school and like everyone in that age group, life got more complicated. I had an undiagnosed disorder that left me half the size, and looking half the age of all the other kids around me. At this point my life kind of split into two.

On the one hand, I was undersized, often felt picked on, and had a lot of internal insecurity that I was walking around with. I felt alone and afraid at times.

On the other hand, I had an amazing family, some great friends, and my local youth leaders, who all made me feel special, loved, and cared for. It was around this time I started trying to think outside of myself, and think about others.

I looked up to the youth leaders and other people in my life who took me in and made me feel safe. As I looked outside of myself, I realized I wanted to give others what had been given to me: a safe

place. It was in these safe places that I was able to realize my worth as someone created and loved by God. I began trying to pass this on to others, by volunteering as a coach, Sunday school teacher, youth leader and cabin leader.

I set my sights on becoming a pastor of some kind so I could help others, and did so after four years of Bible college, where I met my wonderful wife Becca.

We moved to the island and I was an associate pastor for two years, which I really enjoyed, but unfortunately this position wasn't always compatible with my beliefs, and I stepped down for my well being.

I felt dejected, and like a failure when I had to resign from church work. It had been my goal since I was 15 to work at a church. I had snagged my dream and it hadn't worked out. I felt lost and confused about what God's plan for my life was.

God had a plan, and gave me my hopes, experience, and giftings for a reason. I am an energetic, creative and sensitive person, and I have always wanted to serve in a church.

My wife and I were looking for a safe church community where we could have fellowship with others and grow as we journey with God. We were moving back to Saskatchewan, and both Osler and Nutana Park Mennonite Church sounded like great churches to attend that aligned with our beliefs and values.

I had begun wanting to get back into church ministry after a year hiatus, and so when we found these churches were also hiring a pastor, it felt like God's timing was nudging me to apply.

I am very excited to come join in the good work being done here, and I am excited to get to know this church community better!